THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e) India has been following a continuous policy of removal of restrictions on imports since 1991. Tariff line-wises import policy was first announced on 31-3-1996. As on that date, import of 6161 tariff lines (at 10 digit level) out of the total number of 10202 tariff lines (at 10 digit level) was free. Important restrictions on 488 tariff lines (at 10 digit level) were removed during the period 1-4-96 to 31-3-97, further 391 tariff lines (at 8 digit level) were freed during the period 1-4-97 to 13-4-98 and 894 tariff lines (at 8 digit level) were freed on 1-4-99. Quantitative restrictions on 714 items were removed on 31-03-2000. Some of the items, import of which has been allowed freely, include consumer products.

When import of any particular item is free, the actual quantity imported depends on the domestic demand-supply situation. However, all imports in the country are subject to applicable rates of customs duties and also subject to domestic laws, rules, orders, regulations, technical specifications and environmental safety norms as applicable for domestically produced goods. This should provide adequate protection to the domestic industry.

As per the provisionsl import data available with Government, import of eggs. apples and wheat/meslin flour was worth Rs. 1.01 Crores, Rs. 4.14 Crores and Rs. 2.04 Crores respectively for the period April to October, '99. However, the imports are being closely monitored and government would strive to ensure through appropriate use of tariff mechanism that imports do not cause any serious determent or injury to the domestic industry. Import duty on apple was revised upwards from 38.5% to 50% on 5-4-2000.

Development of Industrial Growth Centres in Gujarat

*599. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the amount released so far to the State Government of Gujarat for the development of industrial growth centres;

(b) the amount utilised so far by the State Government Centre-wise; and

(c) the target fixed and achievement made, so far in respect of these growth centres, Centre-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) An amount of Rs. 12 crore as detailed below has so far been released as Central assistance to the Government of Gujarat

for the three growth centres sanctioned for that State which has been fully utilised by the State Government/implementing agency in case of Vagra and Palanpur Growth Centres:—

(Rupees in lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of Growth Centre	Central assistance released
1.	Vagra (District Bharauch)	1000
2.	Palanpur (District Banaskantha)	100
3.	Gandhidham (District Kutch)	100

At Gandhidham growth centre, expenditure reported by State Government is Rs. 16 lakh.

(c) Implementation and completion of the projects rests with the State Government. At the Vagra growth centre, industrial plots have been developed. The other two Growth centres at Palanpur and Ghandhidham have yet to demonstrate progress as the State Government is in the porcess of acquisition of land.

Sports Facilities in North-East

*600. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has any plan to develop sports facilities in North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount that has been sanctioned for different stadia in North-Eastern States during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA) : (a) and (b) Depending upon receipt of viable proposals from the State Governments including NE States, Central assistance as per approved pattern is provided for creation of various sports facilities. However, a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of State of Youth Affairs & Sports has been constituted for formulation of a composite plan of action to develop sports facilities in the North Eastern States including Sikkim.